

Canal Sensations.

M. De Lessers, the canal king, is seeking for more fame. He has at Tunis elaborated a scheme for piercing the Isthmus of Suez with a canal, and thus opening communication with the African interior. Should M. De Lessers get help enough to build such a canal the English will come in as they did in the case of the Suez canal and appropriate it to themselves. They want to become better acquainted with the African interior, and if the French will be very ready to make the way they will be very ready to utilize it. The French are more inventive and more active than their neighbors across the channel, but those neighbors can give them two in the game and beat them in the matter of utilizing results.

It is further stated that M. De Lessers does not mean to stop at this Mount Tabor canal, but that he means to inspect the route for the canal across the Isthmus of Darien, with a view to taking a hand there.

But the daring canal king proposes to go still further. He has the boldness to speak of coming here to take a look at the James River canal! That is brave indeed. He had better hurry up, or he will be too late.

Now, Monsieur Lessers is scheming to forfeit the laurels he has acquired by his engineering of the Suez canal. There cannot possibly be any resemblance between that great work of uniting two seas by a canal across a level plain and a canal from the Mediterranean to Central Africa.

We conjecture that the distinguished engineer will find something new when he makes a superficial survey of Central Africa, the Isthmus of Darien, and the route from the tide-water of James river across the Alleghany to the Kanawha.

The lockage of the James River and Kanawha route is so great that no canal could be thought of in competition with a railway pursuing the same route. The capacity of railway compared with canal is clearly established. Whatever sort of canal might be built along the designated route to the Ohio river would be rejected for its slow transportation. The railway is the improvement for the day. Suez canal is a great success, for the reason that it is the conduit for great ships, with their cargoes, from ocean to ocean, saving to them the thousands of miles around the Cape of Good Hope. No other canal is ever likely to equal that in its great advantages. That projected across the Isthmus of Darien will not.

It will be somewhat interesting to our people to see the veteran canal king and hear him expatiate. But we expect no other gratification, and when he comes he will find "canal talk" here the driest business he ever undertook!

M. Lessers may rest assured that no kind of canal he may suggest from Richmond to the Ohio can ever render service that will equal that of a railway along the same route for speed and cheapness. He would be as far out of his reckoning up in the mountains of Virginia as would be dolphin at the White Sulphur Springs.

The Canal.
Comes the melancholy news that the canal is "free" at both ends. Such intelligence twenty years ago would have been distressing indeed, but now nobody cares. Still we are reminded how necessary is the highway that is to succeed the canal and lift up Virginia and Richmond from prostration and despair. Yes, the railroad that is projected, and the railroad that must and will be built, will at last restore to Virginia commercial supremacy in her own sphere and rapidly extend her business, enlarge her resources, and secure permanent and steadily multiplying wealth.

CONKLING is a mighty generous and just man. He voted for the repeal of the law requiring the test-oath of certain officers, but made a speech against and voted against the repeal of the clause that left it discretionary with the Federal judges to require that oath whenever they deem it proper. So that should any of the more bitter and least prudent and just of the judges choose to annoy the people of the South they can do so by ordering the test-oath. CONKLING is a slippery man. He does not mean to make concessions when he may be injured by making them. His generosity and justice are very much like those of the miser, who did not care what happened, so it did not happen to him. CONKLING is not so outspoken and blunt as BLAINE, but he is not a whit better. We rather think BLAINE is the more generous of the two. They are both intense partisans, in whose estimation each is persuaded there is no greater man than himself, and that the best way to promote the public good is to elect him President of the United States. But concession for anybody else's sake is a thing not to be thought of.

The Massachusetts Republican journals are in a quandary. Their vexation is amusing. They find it hard to get settled. They were incensed at Governor HAMPTON for demanding of Governor RICE the rascally KIMPTON, who stole half a million from poor South Carolina and was a fugitive from justice in Massachusetts. They warmly defended Governor RICE for refusing to surrender the aforesaid rascal. They find themselves in a pickle, now that Governor VANZANDT, of Rhode Island, refuses to surrender one KENNEY, a wool-merchant of Providence, to the demand of the Massachusetts Governor. He had, it is alleged, swindled some Boston merchants of \$200,000. The Governor and the merchants are mad, but the Rhode Island Governor imitates precisely Governor RICE in shielding the Providence thief. The case seems almost providential, since it so admirably points the moral of Massachusetts justice. This case has been on hand for some days, but it stands unchanged, and for the merry Christmas season, that celebrates the proclamation of peace on earth, to men of goodwill, the Governor has a superb chance poisoned by himself most justly commended to his own lips.

A telegram states that JAMES B. EADS has been indicted by the United States grand jury. At once the announcement excited apprehension that there was something wrong about the work or expenditure on the jetties at the South Pass of the Mississippi. But it seems that Mr. EADS is indicted as a director in the defunct Bank of Missouri, and as such he is to be arraigned. The petty business is all right, so far as is known.

ELIUB BURNETT WASHBURN has been spoken of as a proper successor to BAYARD TAYLOR, deceased. But he dashes the desire of his friends by declaring that he will not accept the appointment if offered to him; adding that he has been abroad long enough. He is right, and the country may be facilitated upon the good fortune of getting rid of ELIUB B. as an ambassador.

The Street Railway.

General WALKER, the superintendent of the street railway, is directing the work of extending the track up Main street above Eighth. It is intended that the road shall go along Main street to Sidney and as soon further as may be proper at this time. Main street between Eighth and Fifth is not so steep as Ninth from Main to Broad. Two extra horses will take the car with facility from Eighth to Fifth, and that point gained, there will be a wide field opened to the horse-cars, with less turning and twisting than by the present route. Another advantage will be the greater regularity in the movement of the cars, which will greatly promote public convenience.

Now the next step is to open the street from Twenty-first and Main to Broad, and thence to Twenty-fifth and M. That will give expeditious connection between Church Hill and Shockoe Hill, and be a decided advance in the matter of promoting rapid intercourse between the different divisions of the city. This sort of improvement not only contributes to the comfort and convenience of the people in their business and their intercourse, but will increase the public safety also. It is a great thing to a city for its people and its police to be able to get about surely and rapidly.

All know that the public convenience has been greatly advanced by the omnibuses put upon the streets by GARNER and others. We have no doubt that these lines of transportation will be stimulated in other directions by the increased facilities by street-cars. It is generally the case that an increase of the speed and accommodation of transportation increases the enterprise and energies of those engaged in the business of transporting passengers about a city. Richmond has broken the ice very finely, and there will be no retrograde movement in this line.

Notable Forgers.
A London letter in the Baltimore Sun dated December 14th has the following statement relative to a band of forgers that have recently come over to the United States to accomplish some forgeries upon British banks. It would be well to look out for these experienced sharpers:

FORGERIES IN AMERICA ON BRITISH BANKS.—For some time past the London police authorities have been forwarding the police in America about an old and powerful-organized gang of London forgers who departed hence for New York and San Francisco and skillfully forged letters of credit on British banks after the election of the present year. A good deal of surprise prevails here at the police headquarters that these forgers were permitted to indulge in their pranks without hindrance before being successful. In the case of the forgeries on a prominent London bank by one of the members of this gang in San Francisco, there is no doubt but he was known beforehand by the police of that city. If precaution is better than care, and conviction is only a part of a division of the spoils, the sooner "detective" police are reformed the better for the Orient and the Dominion of Wales. This gang has been an old exportation from London, and during its history, as well as in "letters of credit," has been one of their chief stocks in trade. I am informed that one of their party can so skillfully forge signatures that it is no easy matter to detect the false from the true. The police of the city of London are also active in detection. Hence preparatory information as to the programmes of such persons should be acted on promptly by the police. I learn that Washington may be surprised before long by an attempt of skilful forgers to keep "safes, bonds, and certain employees properly guarded is a wise precaution. A grand telegraphic police system is about to be organized or arranged, placing the great places of the world in supervisory information as to crime and criminals. I use the word "supervisory" advisedly, for it means the looking after some police as well as some prisoners, and perhaps making the former like the latter in the eye of the law.

We still hear the cry of "fat money," or irredeemable greenbacks, occasionally. It is so hard to abandon habit. A small meat-butcher, of Paris, suspended his occupation awhile to take a turn in prison, but the moment he was released he leaped into the first sheep-pen he saw, and cut a few throats to gratify an impulse. Nothing could do that habit but his own death. So with the fat-money lunatic. His dementia can only end with his submission to the inevitable "fat"—that which even "FIAT MULIER" cannot escape.

Hon. E. M. BRAXTON is announced in our columns this morning as a candidate for Congress. The Governor will soon order a special election. It is, of course, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. DOUGLASS'S death.

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS for January, 1879, is a No. which well maintains the growing reputation of this invaluable monthly.

The splendid address of Colonel WILLIAM ALLAN on "Jackson's Valley Campaign," delivered at the last session of the Army of Northern Virginia Association, together with a full citation of authorities for the statements of the distinguished author, will be read with deep interest by all and received by military critics as an able, accurate, and most valuable account of that great campaign.

The report of General WILLIAM B. TALLEFERO of the battle of Aversboro', N. C., is from an original MS., which has never before been published, and is a valuable addition to the scant material for the history of HARDEE'S operations against the enemy in North Carolina.

The "Amended" report of General RUGLES of the battle of Shiloh, and the letters from Colonel BARNARD, Captain SANDGREN, Colonel S. S. HEARD, Captain JAMES C. THRELL, and Colonel J. STODDARD JOHNSON, are all from original MSS., and are very important links in the official history of that great battle, where only the death of ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSON and the coming of BUELL prevented the utter annihilation of GRANT'S army and an inglorious ending of his military career.

In editorial paragraphs a brief account of the laying of the corner-stone of the Lee mausoleum in Lexington is given, and the point made that, as the Association there needs only \$5,000 to complete the mausoleum, which is to receive that splendid creation of genius, VALENTINE'S recumbent figure of LEE, the money ought to be forthcoming at once.

The *Papers* begin the new year under most favorable and promising auspices, but the editor intimates that he wants old subscribers to renew promptly, and that he can find room for more new names on his mailing-book.

Mrs. S. M. MONTAGUE is the agent of the Society for Richmond, and surely our people ought to sustain liberally this home enterprise.

Paul Faber, Surgeon, By GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D., author of "The Marquis of Tossie," "David Elginbro," &c. Philadelphia: LIPPINCOTT & Co.

For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

Judge Rives's Opinion.

Since my former communication to you was published Judge Rives has sent me a printed copy of his opinion in these cases. He places the right of removal for and against the majority of the act of Congress which authorizes the removal entirely upon the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. That amendment provides that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall they deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Judge Rives says: "But it is because I believe the Constitution and the law both require me to deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." 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